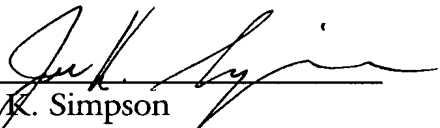


Action was mailed June 4, 1999 and in response Applicant filed a CIP August 24, 1999, claiming priority to Application S/N 08/920,343. On September 22, 1999 the PTO mailed a Notice of Abandonment for Application S/N 08/920,343 with no reason given for the abandonment. The concurrently filed continuation application is being filed in response to the Office Action of August 1, 2000. Thus, Applicant request that its priority claim to Application S/N 08/920,33 be reinstated.

Applicant requests entry of this preliminary amendment in the file of the above referenced application prior to action on the merits of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1-31-01

By   
Jan K. Simpson  
Registration No.: 33,283  
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.  
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100  
Houston, Texas 77010-3095  
(713) 651-5151  
Attorneys for Applicant